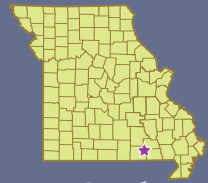


Eleven Point Hills

Conservation Opportunity Area



Ozark
Highlands



The Eleven Point River was one of the nation's first to be selected as a National Wild and Scenic River.

Eleven Point River Conservancy

The Eleven Point River meanders through the picturesque Ozark hills of southern Missouri. Its course is cut in the shadows of steep bluffs, through sloping forested valleys and low-lying riparian ecosystems. Barely more than a small stream at its upper reaches, it gains width and depth as it proceeds southeastward. Springs pouring from dolomite bluffs or rushing up from a vast network of underground flow systems provide a continuous source of water.

The Eleven Point Hills Conservation Opportunity Area (COA) lies in some of the most rugged and least developed portions of the Missouri Ozarks. Historically, it contained Missouri's most extensive shortleaf pineries, historical habitat for the red-cockaded woodpecker.

Additionally, the deeply dissected hills adjacent to the Eleven Point and Current Rivers contain relict populations of plants associated with steep bluffs, cave entrances, fens, springs and sinkholes.

The appearance of this present-day landscape is much different than that of the past. Nearly all virgin pine and oak hardwood forests and woodlands were removed during the late 1800s to early 1900s. Domestic livestock roamed freely for over a century, eliminating much of the historic native grass and wildflower cover. Woody groundcover has flourished – a byproduct of overgrazing and fire suppression. The Eleven Point River COA contains excellent opportunities for restoring rare natural communities and associated plants and animals.

Eleven Point Hills Conservation Strategies

- Restore shortleaf pine woodlands, areas of concentrated glades, high quality fen complexes and other natural communities.
- Restore riparian natural communities, including giant cane stands.
- Implement recovery actions for the Ozark hellbender.
- Conserve hibernacula, maternity colonies and habitat for bats.
- Control problematic invasive plants and animals.
- Involve and integrate willing partners, local communities and individuals.
- Provide financial incentives for private landowners to meet desired resource management conditions; seek conservation easements through willing participants.
- Initiate one pilot conservation strategy for each feature (terrestrial, aquatic and karst).
- Protect the landscape's best examples of terrestrial and aquatic natural communities and geological features as Missouri Natural Areas.



Paul W. Nelson, U.S. Forest Service

Tree thinning and prescribed burns are essential activities for restoring shortleaf pine woodlands.

Priority Research and Inventory Needs

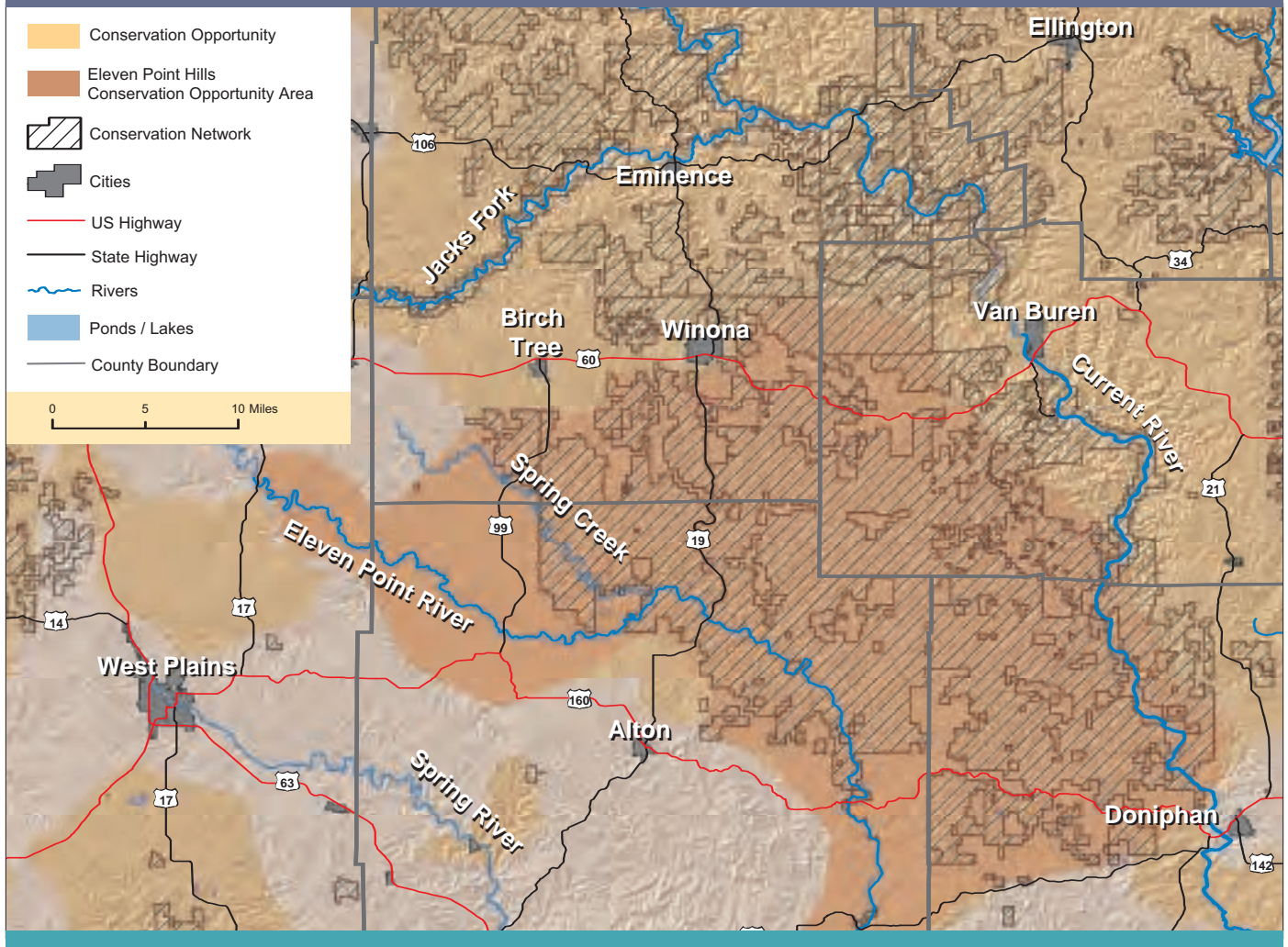
- Inventory and prioritize restoration opportunities. Inventory flatwoods and other woodland natural communities.
- Assess the effects of highway corridors on wildlife crossings and wildlife migrations.
- Expand inventory of problematic non-native invasive plants and animals.
- Inventory and reassess county natural feature surveys based on revised natural community classification system.
- Assess status and condition of species of conservation concern by revisiting known Heritage sites.
- Compile benchmark water quality data for the Eleven Point River.
- Conduct dye tracing to expand knowledge about subterranean hydrological characteristics.
- Review agency management practices on public lands to ensure actions match stated goals and adjust accordingly.

Conservation Partners

Existing: The Nature Conservancy – Missouri Chapter; Eleven Point River Conservancy; Central Hardwoods Joint Venture; National Park Service (NPS); U.S. Forest Service (USFS); Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC)

Potential: Cave Research Foundation; Missouri Speleological Society; Missouri Cave and Karst Conservancy; Missouri Ozark Regional Explorers; Scenic Rivers Watershed Partnership; Ozark Regional Land Trust; Quail Unlimited; Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology; National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF); Missouri Conservation Heritage Foundation (MCHF); Arkansas Natural Heritage Program; Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS); U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS); Missouri Department of Natural Resources (DNR)

Eleven Point Hills Conservation Opportunity Area



Funding Sources

Existing: USFS annual budget; NPS annual budget; MDC annual budget; National Fish and Wildlife Federation Grant; Missouri Bird Conservation Initiative Grant; L-A-D Foundation Grant; DNR Special Area Land Treatment Program; DNR Soil and Water Conservation Cost-Share Grants; DNR Soil and Water Conservation Loan Interest-Share Program

Promising Future Sources: NWTF Wild Turkey Super Fund; MDC State Wildlife Grants; MDC Wildlife Diversity Funds; MDC Forest Legacy Program; USFWS Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program; DNR 319 Grants; MCHF Grants; Missouri Department of Transportation Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act Grants

Existing Conservation Network

Mark Twain National Forest – Doniphan/Eleven Point District (Irish Wilderness, Bald Hill Glade Natural Area, Big Barren Creek Natural Area, Brushy Pond Natural Area, Cowards Hollow Natural Area, Cupola Pond Natural Area, Haney Pond Natural Area, Marg Pond Natural Area, Red Maple Pond Natural Area, Tupelo Gum Pond Natural Area, Wells Branch Fen Natural Area); Ozark National Scenic Riverways (Tunnel Bluff Woods Natural Area); Peck Ranch Conservation Area (Grassy Pond Natural Area, Mule Hollow Glade Natural Area); Birch Creek Conservation Area; Fourche Creek Conservation Area; Thomasville Towersite; Myrtle Access

Summer tanagers live in open woodlands. Their numbers should increase after prescribed burning and tree thinning are used as woodland management techniques.



Jim Rathert, Missouri Department of Conservation

Pine Woodland Restoration



The U.S. Forest Service is working with The Nature Conservancy to restore 10,000 acres of shortleaf pine woodland near Winona. When restored, this woodland complex may become suitable for the reintroduction of the red-cockaded woodpecker and brown-headed nuthatch, two birds once found in pine woodlands but now extirpated from Missouri.

Paul W. Nelson, U.S. Forest Service

Conservation Challenges

The Eleven Point Hills Conservation Opportunity Area is embedded in one of the largest intact native landscapes in Missouri. Great potential exists for large-scale natural community restoration. Potential challenges to conservation success include problematic invasive plants and animals, lack of understanding of natural community management, threats to karst features, limited

information due to lack of inventory data, land fragmentation and habitat destruction due to expanding home development, highway improvements, utilities and conversion to pasturelands, lack of funding and staff, loss of plant and animal diversity due to fire suppression, past logging practices, history of overgrazing and increasing demands for recreational use.

To learn more about the Eleven Point Hills Conservation Opportunity Area, please contact:



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